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THE WASHINGTON TIMES
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CIA role in probe of pope plot questioned

BY A WASHINGTON TIMES STAFF WRITER

Rep. Larry McDonald, D-Ga., has called upon the administration and Congress to investigate allegations that the United States attempted to suppress investigations linking the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II to the Soviet State Intelligence Service (KGB).

In letters to President Reagan, CIA Director William Casey, and Rep. Edward Boland, D-Mass., chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, McDonald said there is mounting evidence that the KGB was either directly involved in the attempt or at least knew the attempted assassination would occur.

He said there is also evidence that the CIA tried to suppress the efforts of newsmen and Italian authorities to link the KGB to the attempt on the pope's life. McDonald asked Casey to respond to charges of a coverup, for Reagan to order the CIA to cooperate with Italian authorities in their investigation, and for the House intelligence committee to hold public hearings on the issue.

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